

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



Christmas Eve – Family Service - 4:30 pm

December 24, 2024

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for a Church Home?

Mr. Rogers once asked, "Won't you be my neighbor?" Jesus asked, "Who is your neighbor?" At Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) - Zionsville, our answer to Jesus' question is EVERYONE, and to Mr. Rogers - YES.

God calls us to meet people wherever they are in their journey of faith – and that includes YOU!

At Christ Lutheran Church you are welcomed, just as you are:

- Single, committed, married, divorced, lost your partner, still looking or not.
- Every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- Ready to join a group or prefer to sit back
- Regardless of knowing a little or a lot about Jesus
- Whether you have left the Church and are returning
- Whether you find yourself on this list or not

We are calling YOU neighbor! Join us!

Children in Worship

Children hold a special place in our congregation! We warmly invite children of all ages to join us in worship. We embrace their natural tendencies to giggle, poke, squirm, and swing their legs - it's all part of being a child and a precious gift to our community.

There is no attendant in the Nursery for this service. However, it is open, and you and your family are welcome to use the Nursery room if needed.

We respect and support each family's unique circumstances and preferences. Whether your child joins the main worship service or utilizes our nursery, we are here to accommodate and make everyone feel welcome and comfortable.

WELCOME**SERVICE OF LIGHT**

P On this holiest of nights,
**C we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.**

P On this most silent night,
**C we come, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

P On this night of carols and candlelight,
**C we come, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels over us.**

OPENING HYMN***O Little Town of Bethlehem v. 1&3***

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION AND FORGIVNESS

P Gracious God,
we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child,
those who dropped all that they were doing
and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world.
We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability;
who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child,
that he might know love and safety.

C Lord, hear our confession.

P And yet, merciful God,
we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod.
Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions,
find our own need for control more compelling
than the needs of others for health and safety.
Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege,
rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed.
Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents
for the sake of profit, or power,
or because we fear to know, and to change,
the injustices of this world.

C Lord, hear our confession.

P Loving God,
we confess our sins against you and one another,
and pray that you will fill us with your light,
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,
without counting the cost.
In the name of Christ,
the one who showed us the way, we pray.

C Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P God's light is present in this world.
Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**C God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.
God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it.
We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!**

ANTHEM

The Little Drummer Boy

arr. Simone/Davis/Onorati

~ Kantorei ~

PRAYER

P O gracious Light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

C Amen.

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P You are witness to these things.

C Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Wes Smith, III

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"I Do Believe" *

**C I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.**

**I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
there was born a Saviour,
who is Christ the Lord.**

**I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood,
yet full of grace and truth.**

**I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the happiness of all people.**

**I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;
Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace,
there will be no end.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.**

This I surely believe!

PRAYERS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

P Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for God's people throughout the world
for this gathering; and for all people. Lord Jesus,
C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in
prison. Lord Jesus,
C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for the good earth which God has given us,
and for the wisdom and will to conserve it. Lord Jesus,
C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for peace; for goodwill among nations; and
for the well-being of all people. Lord Jesus,
C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, our Emmanuel: We pray for all who are sick in mind, body or soul, and we pray your peace
upon them, Lord Jesus,
C hear our prayer.

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join
them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P Lord, we greet you this happy night,
for you have been at work in our world throughout all time.

You made all things and called them good.

You claimed your people Israel,
freed them from the bondage of Egypt,
and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the promised land.

You sent prophets to call your people back to you.

Then in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus,
Immanuel, born the King of Angels,
your Word in flesh appearing.

He was one of us and lived with us,
giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole.

And yet you raised him up again
to overcome the power of death and live a new life.
Still we wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in him and with him.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Then, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in the Lord's Meal. If it's been years, or just a week, the bread and wine/juice and Jesus' presence in, with, and around them are for all. If you have questions about taking your first communion don't hesitate to speak with Pastor Wes.

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. When you come forward you will receive a wafer from Pastor Wes and you will hear the words **the body of Christ, given for you**. Once you eat the wafer you are invited to take either wine or juice from the communion assistant and you will hear the words, **the blood of Christ, shed for you**. Once you've communed there is a small receptacle where the used communion cup can be placed.*

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.



(The sanctuary is darkened.)

At this time, please turn on your electronic candles. If you have a wax candle, Pastor will light the ends of each row and people are invited to light their neighbor's candle.

HYMN

Silent Night

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

At this time you are invited to lift your candle as a way of affirming our Christian calling to carry Christ's light of peace and love into the world.

BENEDICTION

P It has been done!

The News has been shared!

**C A young maiden will bear a child,
and she will call him Jesus.**

P But that is the beginning of the story,

a story that has not yet ended.

**C A story that includes us,
a story of which we are a part.**

P So we go out to live the story,

**C to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this Christmas,
to share the Love of the season with the world,
to be agents of Peace in times of trouble,
to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy.**

P As you go, may God go with you,
challenging us to respond God's Call
in ways that are new,
unexpected and a little unsettling.
And as Tiny Tim said so very well...
God Bless Us Every One.

C Amen.

Once Pastor Wes extinguishes his candle, please extinguish yours.

HYMN

Joy to The World v. 1&4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

P May God the Creator keep you in all your days. May God the Redeemer shield you in all your ways. May God the Spirit bring you healing and peace. May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you and pour upon you blessing and light. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

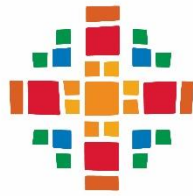
POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Forest/arr. Wagner

* Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on [Bruce Prewer's Homepage](#).

*Want to know more about Christ Lutheran Church?
If you want more information about the church, please email Pastor Wes
(pastor@clczionsville.org), and he will get back to you very soon.*



**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE

SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Greeter:	Connie Ashenfelter
Usher:	Angie Eugenio
A/V Assistant:	Bill Beck

CONTACT INFORMATION

600 North Ford Road, Zionsville, IN 46077 | clczionsville.org | 317-873-3242

Wes Smith

Pastor

pastor@clczionsville.org

Rhonda Blacklock

Music Director

musicdirector@clczionsville.org

Jeff Berger

Governance Board President

president@clczionsville.org

Tina Lizama

Office Administrator

office@clczionsville.org

Melissa Woldman

Preschool Director

preschool@clczionsville.org, 317-873-3232

Connie Steinhart

Financial Secretary

giving@clczionsville.org